

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-17 remain pending. Claims 1-17 have been amended to conform to U.S. Patent practices. Claim 3 has been amended to overcome the Examiner's objection. Claims 18-20 have been added to secure an appropriate scope of protection to which applicant is believed entitled.

The title has been amended per the Examiner's kind suggestion. Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,657,291 to Kurosaki. The rejection is hereby traversed. A rejection based on 35 U.S.C. §102 requires every element of the claim to be included in the reference, either directly or inherently. The Examiner has failed to identify all elements of claim 1 as anticipated by the Kurosaki reference.

In contrast, the present claimed invention claims a locking device which is locked by a first push and unlocked by a second push including a case open at one end, a sliding member engaged in the case, and a spring arranged between the sliding member and the case.

The case has a work face including an elastic leg moveable in the plane of the work face and having a follower projecting toward the inside of the case. That is, the elastic leg moves in the work face plane of the case. "[A]ttachment of the elastic leg to the case enables lateral movement, in the plane of the work surface, in accordance with what is required for the operation of the locking device." (Instant specification at page 4, lines 4-6.) Further, in operation, "elastic leg 7 accompanies the movement of the follower 14 by moving laterally." (Instant specification at page 11, lines 29-30.) Also, during operation of the locking device, the elastic properties of the elastic leg determine operation of the device, e.g., "due to the elastic properties of the elastic leg 7" (Instant specification at page 12, lines 5 and 6) and "under the effect of the elastic leg 7" (Instant specification at page 12, line 21).

The sliding member has a planar cam surface parallel to the work face of the case from which projects a central island about which is formed a cam track for the elastic leg member follower. That is, the planar cam surface having the central island and cam track is part of the sliding member, e.g., "the body 22 is a solid part having on one of its faces a planar surface 24." (Instant specification at page 8, lines 30-31.) Advantageously, as recited in the instant specification, "[r]ecourse to an additional part, hinged to the case or the sliding member and

having the role of a cam, is not necessary.” (Instant specification at page 3, lines 4-6.) Further, the claimed locking device is “not only simpler and cheaper to produce, but also more effective since the reduction of the number of moving parts in the device reduces the chances of inadvertent jamming of the mechanism and gives it a longer life in terms of locking/unlocking cycles.” (Instant specification at page 3, lines 6-10.)

For any of the above reasons, claim 1 is patentable and the rejection is respectfully requested to be withdrawn.

Claims 2-17 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1, include further important limitations and are patentable for at least the reasons advanced above with respect to claim 1. The rejection of claim 2-17 is respectfully requested to be withdrawn.

With specific reference to claim 4, the elastic leg has two branches each attached to a corner of the work face of the case, e.g., “connected to the base of said face 8 by two elastic branches 10.” (Instant specification at page 7, line 17.) As described above in connection with claim 1, the elastic leg is moveable in the work face plane. For any of the above reasons, claim 4 is patentable and the rejection is respectfully requested to be withdrawn.

With specific reference to claim 6, the cam track includes a peninsula situated at the connection of the elastic claws of the sliding member. “The peninsular 28 is arranged on one of the edges of the cam surface 24, between the hinging points of the claws 23 of the sliding member 2.” (Instant specification at page 10, lines 1-2.) For any of the above reasons, claim 6 is patentable and the rejection is respectfully requested to be withdrawn.

With specific reference to claim 8, the peninsula includes two edges forming a point directed toward the central island, e.g., “comprises a point directed towards the curved edge 31 of the central island 27.” (Instant specification at page 10, lines 4-5.) For any of the above reasons, claim 8 is patentable and the rejection is respectfully requested to be withdrawn.

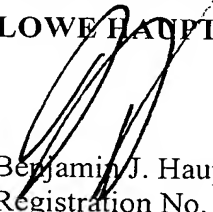
With specific reference to claim 15, the lateral walls of the sliding member include a portion projecting beyond the opposite end from the claws and adapted to be inserted in an aperture formed in the opposite face of the case from the opening. The walls project “beyond the cam surface 24 [of the sliding member], at the opposite end to the claws 23” and “fit into the aperture 16 of the case 1 when the sliding member 2 is completely inserted into the case 1.” (Instant specification at page 9, lines 12-15.) For any of the above reasons, claim 15 is patentable and the rejection is respectfully requested to be withdrawn.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application should be in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

LOWE HAUPTMAN GILMAN & BERNER, LLP


Benjamin J. Hauptman
Registration No. 29,310

Customer Number: 22429
1700 Diagonal Road, Suite 300
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 684-1111
(703) 518-5499 Facsimile
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BJH/RAN/iyf